Lafayette College,
Easton, Pa.,
Jan. 18, 1869

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dr. John Torrey,

Dear Sir,

I have your favor of the 15th. & am greatly pleased that you have consented to revise my work on the plants of Miss Davis. Errors you will, no doubt, discover. With the limited means for study & verification at my command, these could hardly be avoided. But I thought it a good botanical exercise to try what I could do independently. I send the bundle by Express to-day.

For the information in regard to Bolander's plants I am much obliged. Of Wright's collections in Texas & ~~Texas~~ Mexico I have none. All the plants of that region in my herbarium I obtained some years ago from three Texan collections which I named for the Smithsonian, from a botanical friend residing in El Paso & from Thurber's Boundary Survey duplicates. Since the College is now able & willing to supply the means for creating an herbarium & securing its preservation, I am anxious to do all I can to further the good work & would like to get plants from every part of our own territory.

You may, therefore, count me as one of the partners

in the Florida venture. Although Dr. Cattell is absent, so that he cannot be consulted, I will make myself responsible for $50. &, if the money is needed immediately, will send on a check for the amount.

Did you know that Canby had gone to Florida early in the month with the intention of herborizing there during the Spring & early Summer? What portion of the State is to be the field of his operations I did not learn.

About two years ago, on the recommendation of Mr. Chas. E. Smith of Philadelphia, a young botanist of that city, named Sauvman, was appointed by Dr. Chapman as his assistant, with the understanding that his leisure would be devoted to collecting in the neighborhood of Apalachicola. He has been remarkably uncommunicative, sending neither report nor plants to those who befriended him, but I have heard incidentally that he expects to return north in the Spring with a large collection, &, as it was made under the supervision of Chapman, it will no doubt contain many desirable species.

In the parcel of rarer plants from Dr. Gray's range there are several which I forgot to include, among them a fine fruiting specimen of Potamogeton obtusifolius, M. & K. These & some of my botanical puzzles I will take occasion to send you at an early day.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Very respectfully & truly yours,

Thos. C. Porter

Easton, Pa.,
Jan. 26, 1870

Dr. John Torrey,

Dear Sir,

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Knowing how valuable your time is & how much botanical work you have in hand, I am sorry to trouble you, but our friend, Miss Davis, is anxious to have a report on her California plants, in order to be able to distribute her duplicates. If you can, at an early day, look over the bundle, correct errors, & name what can be named with ease to yourself, & return it to me by Express, I shall be greatly obliged.

By Express to-day I send you a small parcel which may contain a few things to interest you. Among them are, I think, 3 new species from Peru., upon which I would like to have your opinion.

Prunus Alleghaniensis, sp. nov. This was supposed by Dr. Gray, some years ago, to be P. spinosa, but it is destitute of thorns & has smooth leaves, longer pedicels which are often in umbels of 2–5, & an obconical calyx with shorter & narrower lobes. It hails from one of the wildest regions in the

State & has been traced from Spruce Creek, Huntingdon Co. across the Alleghanies as far west as Bear Mtn., Elk Co., occurring in situations so remote from dwellings and cultivated grounds that I cannot believe it has been introduced.

Gerardia intermedia, sp. nov. From Presque Isle, Erie, where Judge Clinton first collected it in fruit, Oct. 1864. I then took it for a low, strict form of G. purpurea, but the corolla, as exhibited in flowering specimens recently (in 1868 & 1869) obtained in abundance by Mr. Garber, clearly separates it from that species.

Carex Smithii, sp. nov. - Delaware Co., Penn. Prof. Olney fully supports me in regarding it as distinct from C. hirsuta, & if not vetoed by Dr. Gray, it will appear in his Article in the April no. of Silliman's Journal.

I enclose also a Clematis from a fine collection made last summer in Colorado Territory. It appears to me new, but you can perhaps give it a name. Being the only specimen, please return it with the plants of Miss Davis.

The coming months of July & August I hope to spend in botanizing in the Rocky Mtns. & California. Senator Scott has invited me to accompany him & travelling by rail will cost me nothing.

Encouraged by the liberality of our Board of Trustees, I have laid my plans for building up a large general herbarium for the College, & shall be thankful for any western or Exotic plants you may be able or willing to contribute.

How are the sets you have been preparing for the Smithsonian Institution to be distributed? Could we come in for a share?

Dr. Cattell is still in Europe – in Berlin, when last heard from. We look for his return in May.

Very respectfully & truly yours,

Thos. C. Porter

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.